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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Revision of the Commission's)	CC Docket No. 94-102
Rules to Ensure Compatibility)	RM-8143
With Enhanced 911 Emergency)	
Calling Systems)	

PETITION FOR WAIVER ON BEHALF OF CELULARES TELEFONICA

Celulares Telefónica ("CT"), the CMRS affiliate of the Puerto Rico Telephone Company, hereby respectfully requests a waiver of Section 20.18(c) of the Commission's rules.¹ This provision requires all CMRS licensees "to be capable of transmitting 911 calls from individuals with speech or hearing disabilities through means other than mobile radio handsets, e.g. through the use of Text Telephone Devices."² Waiver of this rule is appropriate, because it is currently technically impossible for CT to satisfy the rule with respect to its digital cellular system.³

The filing date prescribed for petitions for waiver was December 4, 1998. CT did not file a petition at that time, because it had confirmed that it can provide enhanced 911 services to the hearing impaired pursuant to Section 20.18(c) of the Commission's rules; however, it can only do so through its analog cellular facilities. Like the many other carriers that filed petitions for

¹ Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, RM-8143, Order, DA 98-2323 (Wireless Telecom. Bur. rel. Nov. 13, 1998) ("November 13 Order").

² 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(c).

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 22.119(a)(2).

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waiver, CT does not have the technical capability to comply with Section 20.18(c) as of January 1, 1999 through the use of digital facilities. Therefore, although CT can provide the required E911 services, it cannot do so using its digital facilities, and thus, is requesting by this petition a limited waiver of the rule in this regard.

The Bureau has established procedures under which carriers may petition the Commission for waiver of the Section 20.18(c) requirements.⁴ Petitions for waiver must specify the following: (1) the steps the carrier is taking or will take to provide users of TTY devices the capability of using these devices with digital wireless phones; (2) when the carrier intends to make this capability to TTY, including well-documented timetables and milestones regarding implementation; and (3) the reasonable steps the carrier will take to address consumer concerns identified in the September 30 Order. In accordance with the November 13 Order, CT provides the following in support of its Petition for Waiver:

(1) The steps necessary to provide users of TTY devices the capability of using TTY devices with digital wireless phones

As stated previously, CT is capable, through its dual mode cellular system, of transmitting TTY information using analog channels. However, CT has contacted its switch vendor and determined that no devices capable of transmitting TTY information over its digital channels are currently available. CT will maintain contact with the switch vendor to ensure that such devices are installed as soon after they are available as possible. If the waiver is granted, CT will continue to provide support of these efforts in updates provided every three months.⁵

⁴ November 13 Order at ¶ 11.

⁵ Id.

(2) When TTY capability will be made available, including well-documented timetables and milestones regarding implementation

CT intends to make TTY capability available over its digital cellular system as soon as the necessary equipment is commercially available and installed. Once devices capable of transmitting TTY information over digital cellular networks have been developed, tested, and become commercially available under reasonable terms, CT will be able to provide at that time a timetable for installation.

(3) The reasonable steps the carrier will take to address consumer concerns identified in the September 30 Order

The Bureau has identified a number of consumer concerns regarding the implementation of an effective solution regarding the transmission of TTY information over digital networks.⁶ These technical and practical concerns may be best addressed through an industry-wide solution that ensures that all digital networks have the capability of transmitting TTY information for individuals with hearing or speech disabilities, available according to an acceptable standard of performance. CT will take all reasonable steps to implement such a solution.

⁶ Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, RM-8143, Order (Wireless Telecom. Bur. Rel. Sept. 30, 1998) at ¶ 9 and Appendix.

The transmission of TTY information over digital networks is an industry-wide problem requiring a uniform solution. Based on the foregoing, CT respectfully requests a waiver of Section 20.18(c) of the Commission's rules until compliance is technically possible and the means for compliance are commercially available under reasonable terms.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tina M. Pidgeon', is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: December 28, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Dottie E. Holman, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition for Waiver on behalf of Celulares Telefónica was sent by hand-delivery this 28th day of December, 1998, to the following:

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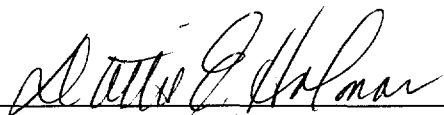
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